

REMARKS**Information Disclosure Statement**

In response to the Examiner's request in Paragraph 2 of the Office Action, Applicants enclose with this response a copy of each reference cited in a previously-filed information disclosure statement.

Allowable Claims

The Office Action deems claims 3-6 as allowable if rewritten in an independent format. Accordingly, claim 3 and 6 are rewritten as independent claims to include the features of claim 1. Hence, these claims are in condition for allowance. In addition, claims 4 and 5 depend on claim 3, and are hence in condition for allowance as well.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2 and 7-14 as being obvious in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,108,782 of Fletcher.

As indicated in the above listing of the claims, claims 1 and 2 are canceled without prejudice to expedite the prosecution of the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue these claims in future continuing applications.

Claims 7 and 8 are rewritten to depend on allowable claim 3 (now in independent format) and claims 9 and 10 depend, either directly or indirectly, on claim 8. Hence, these claims are also in condition for allowance.

Moreover, claim 11 is amended to depend on allowable claim 3, rather than claim 1. And claims 12-14 depend, either directly or indirectly on claim 11. Accordingly, claims 11-14 are also in condition for allowance.

New Claim

New claim 15 depends on allowable claim 3, and similar to original claim 2 (now canceled) recites that the data type identifier is a string name. As noted above, claim 3 is in condition for allowance. And hence so is claim 15.

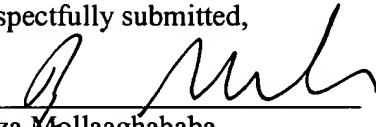
CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the application. If there are any remaining issues, Applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned at (617) 439-2514.

Dated: September 10, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By


Reza Mollaaghbab

Registration No.: 43,810

NUTTER MCCLENNEN & FISH LLP

World Trade Center West

155 Seaport Boulevard

Boston, Massachusetts 02210-2604

(617) 439-2000

(617) 310-9000 (Fax)

Attorney for Applicant

1360372.1